

Mayor J. Paul Kilgore, Jr. called a regular monthly meeting of the Amherst Town Council to order on July 8, 2015 at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall at 174 S. Main Street. Council members Kenneth Bumgarner, Andrá Higginbotham, Mike Mozingo, Rachel Thompson and Kenneth Watts were present. Town Manager Jack Hobbs, Town Attorney Tom Berry, Police Chief Robert Kimbrel, Director of Public Utilities Tom Fore and Office Manager Colan Davis were present.

Ms. Rachel Cordero came forward to offer a prayer as a citizen comment.

Elizabeth Gamble came forward to receive a copy of the Council's July 1 resolution.

Town intern E. J. Mintah, a rising senior at Lynchburg College, gave a report on his work for the Town which has involved improving the Town's Wikipedia page, reviewing the Town's web site, and preparing the after-action/documentation report for the recent Amherst Retail Academy project.

Mrs. Thompson made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Watts and passed 5-0 to approve the minutes from the June 10 (as amended) and July 1, 2015 meetings. Messrs. Bumgarner, Higginbotham, Mozingo, Thompson and Watts voted "Aye".

There was a discussion about finishing the Town Hall renovation work. Major items remaining to be completed include landscaping at the Town Hall driveway entrance and upgrading the table in the Council Chamber.

The Council agreed to solicit proposals for the requested Town of Amherst ornament for the Governor's Mansion holiday tree via a contest.

The Town Manager was authorized to contract with BotkinRose for bond counsel services and Tom Berry for legal services for the Main Street water line project with the understanding that monies would be paid from bond proceeds at closing.

Per the Town Engineer's recommendation, Mrs. Thompson made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Bumgarner and approved 5-0 that Town Council reject all bids received in connection with a sewer cleaning/video project. Messrs. Bumgarner, Higginbotham, Mozingo, Thompson and Watts voted "Aye".

By consensus, the Council asked the Planning Commission to make a recommendation on a proposed amendment to the Town's real estate sign ordinance.

By consensus, the Town Manager was authorized to contract with propertyroom.com to dispose of surplus Town property.

The Council discussed the need to install sidewalk on U.S. Route 60 east of the traffic circle.

The Town Manager led a discussion on how the budget process could be improved and gave an oral status report on various projects.

The Council discussed the pay and classification study presented on July 1 and agreed to meet on August 26, 2015 at 7:00 P.M. with Mr. Anzivino of Springstead, Inc., subject to his availability.

There being no further business, at 8:30 P.M. Mr. Mozingo made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Thompson and approved 5-0 to adjourn the meeting. Messrs. Bumgarner, Higginbotham, Mozingo, Thompson and Watts voted "Aye".

J. Paul Kilgore, Jr.
Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk of Council